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SIXTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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THE ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1948  
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE BLYTH RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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My Lord, My Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

The Report has been prepared on the lines indicated by the Minister under Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

The year was free from any outbreak of serious epidemic disease, and the birth rate and death rate compare favourably with that of England and Wales.

The housing shortage is often attributed to the war years with enemy bombing and general deterioration, but there is another factor which is often overlooked, and this factor is the social security legislation of recent years.

A dozen years ago the old age pensioner at 10/- a week could not continue to pay the rent and so we had a group of unfortunate people known as the "aged poor." Today, with a more generous scale of pensions, food subsidies and rent restriction, persons on reaching pension age no longer need to vacate their homes. This is most desirable, but it sometimes happens that an old person is left alone in a house too large to keep clean or warm, and should the house become unsanitary it becomes the unpleasant duty of the Local Authority to remove the occupant.



It would appear that there is a need for small flatlet type houses for these old age pensioners, at rents sufficiently low to encourage them to vacate the large houses which are in demand for the younger family units, and especially for the younger ex-serviceman who, not having been a householder in the pre-war years, often has to live in overcrowded conditions. It would appear that the present relatively generous allotment of houses to old people is being made not at the expense of the tax-payer, but at the expense of the younger wage earner, whose dissatisfaction with the state of affairs is sometimes manifest in the unofficial strikes of recent months.

I would like to record my appreciation to Dr. Burns and the members and officers of the Council for their co-operation and support in 1948.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord, My Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS  
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Medical Officers of Health

W. M. BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. (resigned 30th June,  
1948)

J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1st July, 1948)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

MR. E. C. KITCHEN, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Building and Additional Sanitary Inspectors

MR. R. W. JOHNSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Mr. C. L. NATION, A.R.San.I.

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## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ..... 97,935.

Registrar General's estimate of resident  
population (mid 1948) ..... 19,280.

Approximate number of inhabited houses at  
the end of 1948 ..... 6,350.

Rateable Value ..... £65,914

Sum represented by a penny rate ..... £255.

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## VITAL STATISTICS.      (1947 figures in brackets)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS : Legitimate .....	318 (379)	171	147
Illegitimate .....	18 (21)	6	12
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 22.6			
(England and Wales ) - 17.9			
STILLBIRTHS : Legitimate .....	7	1	6
Illegitimate .....	1	-	1
DEATHS : .....	224	114	110
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 12.1			
(England and Wales ) - 10.8			
Deaths from Fucperal Causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) ..... Nil.			
Four infants died before reaching the age of one year.			
Death rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 live births - 11.9			



INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED BY AGE GROUP  
FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -			7	3	2	
1 -			10	11	16	11
3 -	1	1	7	14	10	18
5 -		1	9	11	43	38
10 -		1		1	12	10
15 -				1		2
25 & over			2	1	2	2
Age unknown				1		
TOTAL	1	3	35	43	85	91

	Acute Pneumonia		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyx.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	3							
5 -	2		1					
15 -	2				1			
45 -	1	3			2	1		
65 -	1	1				2		
Age unknown								2
TOTAL	9	4	1	-	3	3	-	2



One case of Brucellosis (Undulant fever) was notified, this infection is often transmitted by the unpasteurised milk from a cow infected with Brucella Abortus.

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No cases of any of the following diseases were notified :

Acute poliomyelitis

Acute Polioencephalitis

Diphtheria

Dysentery

Smallpox

Acute encephalitis lithargica

Enteric or typhoid fever

Cerebro spinal fever

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Ages at Notification and sex of the fifteen new cases of Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F
	16	2	9
19	17	6	18
28	18	37	28
58	76	38	
		65	



Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the  
31st December, 1948.

<u>Males</u>	Pulmonary	22
	Non-Pulmonary	13
<u>Females</u>	Pulmonary	18
	Non-Pulmonary	17
	TOTAL	70

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CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
Heart Disease .....	48	45
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....	16	10
Cancer .....	15	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2	2
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia ....	8	4
Suicide .....	4	2
Accident .....	5	6
Other causes .....	6	2
TOTALS	104	90





SECTION 47 of the NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No person was removed to hospital under the powers in this Act.

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CHILD WELFARE

Infant Welfare Clinics are organised by the East Suffolk County Council and held at the following centres :-

Framlingham.	Last Wednesday in the month.
Yoxford	Fourth Tuesday in the month.
Wenhaston	Second Wednesday in the month
Saxmundham.	Second Thursday in the month
Farnham (Benhall)	Second Monday in the month.
Halesworth.	First & third Wednesday in the month.
Leiston.	First & third Thursday in the month.

Instruction and advice is available for mothers and the progress of the infant is observed and recorded.

The success of these clinics owes much to the enthusiastic assistance given by the lady voluntary workers.

The Framlingham Clinic formerly held in the Police Court has now obtained more satisfactory quarters in St. Michael's Rooms.

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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Pre-school population (0-4)	1,654
School population (5-14)	2,811
% pre-school children immunised	51.8
% all children immunised	73.6
"Booster" treatment 1948	56



## WATER

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity where a piped supply has been available except for occasional interruptions due to failure of pumps and wind-mills.

In those areas where a piped supply is not available the present well and pond system has been tolerated for centuries. This supply is getting worse probably because the land is now more extensively drained and also because the rainfall has been low in recent years. Is this decline in rainfall due to the deforestation of the war years?

However, a comprehensive scheme is being developed for the supply of piped water from two sources at Saxmundham and Walpole.

I would like to see the large water mains laid in straight lines cross country from bore to consumer groups and not alongside the winding roads except where ribbon development has so distributed the population that such a route is necessary. The manual labour needed to lay mains under the precious metalled road surfaces is almost as valuable as the clerical labour that would be needed to draw up wayleaves for water mains through fields. Is it not a reflection on the planning ability of our generation that the map of Suffolk shows our proposed water mains as straight lines only where those same straight lines were drawn a thousand years ago by some forgotten Roman soldier?



PARISHES WITH PIPE SUPPLIES

	Number of houses sup- plied from Public Main Stand- Direct pipe		Population supplied (Estimate)	Bacteriolog- ical and chemical examination	Quality	Quantity
Aldringham	181	6	567	See A	Satis- factory	Satis- factory
(Thorpeness)	172	-	Holiday- makers	Supplied privately result sat- isfactory	"	"
Cransford	6	29	105	None	"	"
Framlingham	565	20	1765	See B.	"	"
Knodishall	118	-	354	See A.	"	"
Parham	12	76	264	None	"	"
Saxtead	11	58	207	See B	"	"
Walberswick	207	-	621		"	"
Badingham		20	70	) These supplies are ) by a windpump with ) a standpipe at its ) base ) ) ) ) ) ) )		
Chediston		8	28			
Cookley		4	14			
Cratfield		43	160			
Dennington		14	49			
Feasenhall		9	32			
Sibton		14	49			
Ubbeston		12	42			
Bruisyard		18	63			



A. Supply from Leiston U.D. Report of examination on  
24. 11. 48.

"Probably number of coliform bacilli. MacConkey 2 days at 37°C - 25 per 100 ml. Bacteriological findings show no evidence of harmful pollution, though the coliform count is at maximum tolerated point for even a shallow well. For a town supply the findings are very poor indeed."

Since this report arrangements have been made to chlorinate the Leiston Water supply. No Chemical analysis was carried out in 1948. The water is not plumbo solvent.

B. Framlingham Water Supply. A report of bacteriological examination carried out on the 20. 4. 48. was as follows :-

"Plate count Yeastal Agar 3 days at Room Temperature aerobically 9 colour per ml.

Plate count Yeastal Agar 2 days at 37°C Centigrade.  
0 colour per ml. Probable number of coliform bacilli,  
MacConkey 2 days 37°C - Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks. Bacteriological findings satisfactory.

The examination was repeated on 13. 12. 48 and the results were as follows :-

"Plate count Yeastal Agar 3 days at Room Temp. aerobically 2 colour per ml.

Plate count Yeastal Agar 2 days at 37° Centigrade aerobically 0 colour per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C - Nil per 100 ml.





MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There is no slaughterhouse in Blyth Rural District - inspection of food premises is carried out from time to time.

FOOD POISONING

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organism or other agent responsible	Food involved
1	28	-	Unknown	Believed to be meat in batter

The outbreak followed a school meal at Parham and although detailed bacteriological examination of the food handlers, food, and child patients was made, no bacteriological cause was discovered, but it is likely that some organism, possibly a virus had contaminated the utensils in which the food was carried from a small overcrowded canteen at Charsfield. Since the outbreak a new school canteen has been opened at Parham.

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